

Inside this Issue

- Important Info
- Staying Safe
- Centennial Information
- Ranger-led Programs
- Fun Things to Do: Hiking, Camping & More!

Join the Celebration

This year marks one hundred years since Rocky was established. See the special insert to learn about 100 years of Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder, and the events planned to celebrate the centennial birthday.

Find us on your favorite social media platform to join in on special events, photos, videos, and more!

@Rockynps

#rmnp



Rocky Mountain National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park



Park News

Spring 2015
March 22, 2015 - June 13, 2015



Dream Lake in springtime NPS/John Marino

Enjoy Your Visit

By Katy Sykes, Information Office Manager

What pictures in your mind does the word "springtime" conjure up? Fields of flowers, baby animals, twittering birds? How about white mountains and snowfalls measured in feet? Springtime in Rocky Mountain National Park is all of these and more. Actually, springtime in Rocky can feel like any season of the year: sunny, snowy, rainy, windy, warm, and cold.

Spring days can be gorgeous with crystal blue skies and bright sunshine that pours down over the mountains. But traditionally, some of the park’s biggest snowfalls occur in March and April. Snow into early June up on the mountaintops is not uncommon. Trail Ridge Road is scheduled to open for the season on May 22 this year, but its opening is always weather-dependent and it stays open as long as weather and road conditions permit. Spring snows are usually quite wet, which is great for forest fire prevention but not always great for activities like snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, and early season hiking. Check with a ranger about current conditions.

Mountain stream and lake ice melts in the warm spring sun, so be extra careful not to fall in, as the water is very cold. Hypothermia can be deadly.

One of the harbingers of spring is the brilliant Mountain bluebird, first spotted in late February - early March. Pasqueflowers, Snow buttercups, and Easter daisies start blooming in early April. By the third week of May, fields of cheery bright-yellow Golden banner, a member of the pea family, splash the mountainsides and roadsides. In early June, look for the several species of delicate orchids that bloom in the park. Wild roses and Colorado blue columbine appear around the third week of June.

Bears usually come out of winter hibernation in late March - early April. They are hungry and not much natural food is available yet. Help protect them by properly securing food items. Baby animals start showing up in May and June. As fun as they are to look at, be sure to give the new mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk, and moose moms extra space, as they can be quite protective of their precious babies.

Visitor Centers Estes Park Area

Please see the schedule of ranger-led programs on page 4 for events and activities at these visitor centers and elsewhere

Alpine Visitor Center

Starting May 22, open daily (weather permitting) 10:30-4:30. This highest visitor center in the National Park Service is on Trail Ridge Road at 11,796 feet. Extraordinary alpine tundra views, displays, information, a bookstore, an adjacent gift shop and cafe. Call (970) 586-1222 for Trail Ridge Road status.



Alpine Visitor Center NPS/Peter Biddle

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Through May 2, open daily 8-4:30. Starting May 3, open daily 8-5. Near the Beaver Meadows Entrance on U.S. Hwy. 36 west of Estes Park. Park information, free park movie and new Centennial movie, and bookstore. Backcountry camping permits are available by following the trail just east of the visitor center to the Backcountry Office.



Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
NPS/Ann Schonlau

Fall River Visitor Center

Open weekends in May and daily starting May 18, 9-5. Near the Fall River Entrance on U.S. Hwy. 34 west of Estes Park. Features life-sized wildlife exhibits, displays and bookstore.

Sheep Lakes Information Station

Starting May 16, open daily 9-4:30 (weather permitting) in Horseshoe Park on U.S. Hwy. 34 west of Estes Park. Information and ranger programs. Horseshoe Park is a good place to look for wildlife, including bighorn sheep and elk.

Grand Lake Area

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30. Starting May 4, open daily 8-5. On U.S. Hwy. 34 north of Grand Lake. Park information and maps, free park movie and new Centennial movie, exhibits on how to plan your visit, bookstore, and backcountry camping permits.



Kawuneeche Visitor Center
NPS/Peter Biddle

Free Park Movie

In celebration of Rocky's Centennial, this year both the stunning 23-minute park movie *Spirit of the Mountains*, and new inspirational 21-minute Centennial film are shown in Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and Kawuneeche Visitor Center through September.

Beaver Meadows has Assisted Listening Devices for audio description and amplification and induction loops for people with hearing aids. Both visitor centers have a captioned version of the park film. Beaver Meadows has the park film en Espanol. All park visitor centers are accessible.



Park Phone Numbers



Park Information: (970) 586-1206
Trail Ridge Road Status: (970) 586-1222



TTY for deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired (970) 586-1319



Dial 911 to report Emergencies

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees may be increasing in spring 2015.

All entrance fees are paid at entrance stations (not visitor centers). Fees and passes can be paid in US currency by major credit or debit card, cash, or check.



Wilson's Warbler NPS/Russell Smith

Stay Safe

You Are Responsible

It is your responsibility to be safe and to know and obey park rules. Park safety information, rules and regulations can be found at visitor centers, entrance stations, on trailhead bulletin boards, and on the park website at www.nps.gov/romo.

Altitude Sickness

Each year a number of visitors experience symptoms of altitude sickness, including headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting, and in acute situations, even unconsciousness. High altitude can also aggravate preexisting medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. Take your time and be sure to drink plenty of water, eat lightly, and get lots of rest. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go down to a lower elevation.

Avalanches

Avalanches can be easily triggered by backcountry travelers. Always practice safe travel procedures and reduce your exposure in or below avalanche terrain. Stay flexible; if hazardous avalanche conditions exist, use alternate routes.

Know before you go: check current avalanche conditions at the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website, <http://avalanche.state.co.us/>, at a park visitor center, or call (970) 586-1206.

Backcountry Travel

Avoid traveling alone in the backcountry. Leave detailed information about your trip itinerary with a friend so park authorities can be notified if you fail to return.

Because weather in Rocky can be so changeable and conditions variable, hikers and climbers need to remain flexible. Be prepared to turn around if conditions are more difficult than anticipated. Longs Peak, a popular climb in the park, has unavoidable and treacherous ice and snow and usually remains that way until mid-summer.

Camping is only allowed in designated sites and areas (see page 5).

Bicycles

Bicycling is prohibited on trails. Bicycles are permitted on all roads that are open to motor vehicles, both paved and dirt, unless otherwise posted. There are no designated bicycle lanes along roads. Park roads are narrow with few or no shoulders, so ride with care. By law, you must ride single file. Shuttle buses are not equipped to transport bicycles.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted only in campgrounds and picnic areas with fire grates. During high fire danger, campfires may be prohibited. Firewood can be purchased at campgrounds in summer. Collecting vegetation, dead or alive, is prohibited.

Cell Service Undependable

Don't depend on a cell phone for emergency help, as many locations in this rugged park have no cell service.

Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard and can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful around dead trees when it's windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow.

Firearms

Firearm possession in Rocky Mountain National Park is permitted for those who are legally authorized to possess firearms under federal, Colorado or local laws. However, hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice are illegal.

Federal law prohibits firearms in park buildings and facilities. Those legally allowed to carry firearms must comply with all applicable state and federal firearm laws.

Fishing

Several species of trout are found in the park, including brown, brook, rainbow, and cutthroat (including the protected Colorado River and greenback). Not all park lakes have reproducing populations of fish; cold water temperatures and lack of spawning habitat prevent reproduction in most high altitude lakes.

A Colorado state fishing license is required to fish in the park. The fishing brochure, including regulations, possession limits, and a list of park waters, is available at park visitor centers and on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/romo>.

Wildlife Viewing

- Obey wildlife closure areas and “no stopping” traffic zones.
- Use parking areas along the road. If not available, pull your vehicle completely off the road and do not park on vegetation.
- Approaching animals may cause them stress, leading to disease or illness.
- If you cause an animal to move or change its behavior, you are too close!
- Wildlife can be unpredictable. For your safety and theirs, enjoy and photograph wildlife from a distance.
- Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.

Hypothermia

Drowsiness, impaired judgment, excessive shivering and slurred speech are all signs of hypothermia. Prevent this condition by wearing insulated, wind-proof layers and drinking plenty of fluids.

Marijuana

Although small amounts of recreational marijuana are legal in Colorado, possession and use of marijuana continue to be illegal in Rocky Mountain National Park and all federal lands.

Pets

PETS ARE PROHIBITED ON ALL ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TRAILS, TUNDRA, AND MEADOW AREAS. For the safety of your pet and the benefit of park wildlife and other visitors, leashed pets are only allowed in picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds, and along roadsides.

Pets should never be left unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet when outside vehicles.

Stop in a visitor center for more information on hiking options for pets outside the park or see the pets brochure on the park website, <http://www.nps.gov/romo>.

Service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park.

Emotional support (“therapy animals”) and service animals-in-training are not service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act and may not access trails or other non-motorized areas.

Rivers and Streams

Rivers and streams can be deadly. During spring runoff, waterways swell with melting snow from higher elevations. Beside being frigid, the water can be swift and strong. Powerful currents can knock a person over and quickly pull them downstream or underwater, where they may become trapped. Rocks at streamside are often slippery, and the water nearby may be deep. Always closely supervise children around any body of water, but particularly near rivers and streams.

Take Only Pictures

Regulations prohibit taking any natural features including pinecones, rocks, antlers, artifacts, or disturbing soil, rocks, or vegetation -including flowers- in the park. Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

Ticks

Spring is tick season. When you're out in vegetated areas, particularly tall grasses, check yourself regularly for ticks. Use repellant with DEET. If a tick does imbed itself, use tweezers and slowly pull the tick straight out. Ticks can carry diseases, including Colorado Tick Fever.

Wildlife Encounters - Bears and Mountain Lions

Seeing a bear or mountain lion is uncommon, and interactions are even more uncommon. But it's best to keep the following in mind:

- ▶ Travel in groups and make noise as you hike closely together. Keep children close! A predator does not distinguish a running child from running prey.
- ▶ If you see a bear or mountain lion, stop, stay calm, and back away slowly. Never approach any wildlife or turn your back and run. Stand tall and look large. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- ▶ If approached, make loud noises, shout, clap hands, clang pots or pans, and fight back if attacked.

See the Camping section on page 5 to learn how to properly store food and other scented items.

Travel Tips

The Essentials

- Always carry essential survival items, regardless of the length of your trip.
- ✓ Lots of water and high-energy food
 - ✓ Layers of clothing including storm gear, hat, and gloves
 - ✓ Sunglasses with UV protection
 - ✓ Sunscreen
 - ✓ Sturdy footwear and extra socks
 - ✓ First aid kit
 - ✓ Topographic map and compass/GPS
 - ✓ Flashlight or headlamp
 - ✓ Waterproof matches, pocket knife, whistle

Park Roads

Weather conditions in Rocky Mountain National Park can be very changeable, and it can snow any time of the year, especially at higher elevations.

The Rocky Information Office is open 8-4:30 daily and can assist with current conditions, (970) 586-1206, or stop at a visitor center.

All-wheel drive, 4-wheel drive, or snow tires may be recommended during periods of heavy snow.

This year, Trail Ridge Road is scheduled to open for the season on May 22. This

is always weather dependent. Plus, it may temporarily close several times after that date due to weather. For a recorded message with current Trail Ridge Road status call (970) 586-1222. Winter closures are at Many Parks Curve on the east side, 8 miles from the Beaver Meadows/US Highway 36 and Fall River/US Highway 34 entrances, and the Colorado River Trailhead on the west side, 10 miles from the Grand Lake Entrance.

Weather permitting, lower elevation paved roads remain open year-round, including Bear Lake Road.

Old Fall River Road is scheduled to open to motorized travel in early July 2015.



Bighorn Sheep Lamb NPS/Ann Schonlau

Resources Stewardship

Do You Hear the Sounds of the Wilderness?

by Cecilia White, Acoustic Technician, NPS Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division

If you had arrived in Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915, the snow-capped peaks and sparkling alpine lakes might not have looked much different than they do today. But can you imagine how it sounded? Elk bugling, birds singing, wind whistling, water trickling, flowing, or gushing. There was far less noise to detract from this natural symphony. Trail Ridge Road was still two decades away. There were very few vehicles roaring through the park, and no planes whooshing overhead. The trails were uncrowded and no technological devices beeped, buzzed, or blasted annoying tones.

Chances are, on your visit to Rocky today, you are hoping to experience

something unique—a peaceful escape to the serenity of the wilderness; the excitement of an encounter with wildlife; an exhilarating view of majestic scenery. The sounds of nature enhance your visit, but what’s equally important is what you don’t hear. Rocky Mountain National Park has taken specific actions to protect its natural sounds and keep noise to a minimum. For example, Rocky worked with the Federal Aviation Administration to adjust the routes and quiet the descent patterns of jets approaching Denver International Airport. The changes enacted in 2013 mean that your wilderness experience will be more tranquil than ever. Shuttle buses reduce traffic noise in busy areas

of the park and improve your chances of seeing wildlife. Rocky is also the only national park in the West with a Congressional ban on commercial air tours, which means you won’t hear helicopters as you take in your scenic view. The League of Women Voters of Estes Park led the concerned citizens who lobbied for this ban in 1998. Together, they proved Margaret Meade’s famous quote: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

So how will Rocky sound in another 100 years? As the population grows, it’s likely that more and more visitors will come to the park. But could changes in technology and behavior help bring the park back to its more tranquil



Bull elk bugle in fall NPS/Ann Schonlau

beginnings? Improvements in commercial air flights are already quieting the park. Visitors who choose to ride shuttles and silence their devices are making a difference. Newer electric and natural gas-fueled vehicles make less noise than traditional ones. How will you reduce your own noise footprint as you visit the park? What will you hear today?

The Fragile Alpine Tundra

About one-third of Rocky is covered with fragile, exquisite alpine tundra. With care you may walk on the tundra. However, there are four Tundra Protection Areas in which you must stay on trails as you walk: the area surrounding the Alpine Visitor Center, Forest Canyon, Rock Cut, and Gore Range overlooks. All of these areas are along Trail Ridge Road.

To help protect alpine tundra

- Stay on trails where they exist.
- Never walk single file off trail.
- Step on rocks or gravel wherever possible.
- Pets are prohibited on all RMNP tundra areas.

The tiny plants thank you.



Alpine Sunflowers NPS/Ann Schonlau

Junior Rangers

Become a Junior Ranger



Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge! You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at: romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov

Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos. se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!



Junior Rangers attend a ranger-led program NPS/Ann Schonlau

Moraine Park Discovery Center

Explore Moraine Park Discovery Center

Perched above the meadows of Moraine Park along Bear Lake Road with expansive views of mountains, meadows, and often wildlife is Moraine Park Discovery Center.

It is open 9-4:30 May 23, 24, and 25, and then daily starting May 30. Also find interactive exhibits, a self-guiding nature trail, and bookstore.

Park Partners

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Help Us Make it Even Better!



If you’ve **walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center**, or introduced a child to nature through the park’s **Junior Ranger Program**, you know our work.

Become a Member or Donate Today!



www.RMConservancy.org

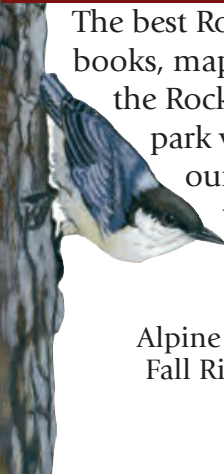
At Conservancy Nature Stores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference!



Visit the Conservancy’s Nature Store in any park visitor center for the best RMNP t-shirts, games, jewelry, books, maps and other great park items. Proceeds support the park!



At Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores, YOUR PURCHASE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



The best Rocky Mountain National Park t-shirts, games, toys, books, maps and other interesting items are here, at any of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores located in park visitor centers. When you make a purchase from our nonprofit organization, proceeds are returned to the park, supporting important educational and research programs. Drop by today.

Visit Conservancy Nature Stores at:

Alpine Visitor Center 🐾 Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
Fall River Visitor Center 🐾 Kawuneeche Visitor Center
🐾 Moraine Park Discovery Center

www.RMConservancy.org



Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Rocky Mountain Field Institute IN
Rocky Mountain National Park

Spring adventures in the Rockies - more than 100 classes!

Mysterious Owls of Rocky	April 17, 18
Behind the Scenes in RMNP	May 8
Orienteering for Beginners: Map & Compass Basics	May 30
North American Eagles	June 6
Boreal Toads: Amphibians at High Altitudes	June 8
Photographing Wildlife	June 14

Adventures by Bus Tours in the Park:

Journey to the Top! Trail Ridge Road Adventure Tours	June 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25
Grand Lake Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus	June 9, 16, 23, 30
Sunset Safari: An Educational Adventure by Bus	June 12, 19, 26

Have fun and learn in the park!




970-586-3262
www.RMConservancy.org



More information at any park visitor center

Ranger-Led Programs East Side and West Side

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning.

East Side Special Activity	Location	Time	Length	Frequency
International Migratory Bird Day Bring binoculars and a field guide for this ranger-led birding excursion. Come for part of all of this multi-location event. Call (970)586-1206 for information	Meet first at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center on US Hwy 36 west of Estes Park	8:00 am-12:00 pm	4 hour event	Saturday, June 6 only

East Side Ranger-led Programs	Location	Time	Length	Frequency
Bighorn Basics Sheep Lakes is a popular viewing area for bighorn sheep. Meet at the Sheep Lakes Information Station to learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky.  Starts May 16	Sheep Lakes Information Station in Horseshoe Park along US 34 west of Estes Park	10:30 am	30 minute talk	Daily (weather permitting) starts May 16
Spring Bird Walk Join a local expert for birding at one of the best times of the year. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Be prepared for frosty, damp mornings.	Meet at Cub Lake Trailhead in Moraine Park	8:00 am	1.5 hour program	Monday Wednesday Thursday
Bear Necessities Join a ranger to learn about the amazing lives of Rocky's bears. Learn how you can help save them. 	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center on US Hwy 36 west of Estes Park	10:30 am	20-30 minute talk	Saturday Sunday
Beaver Meadows Evening Programs Enjoy a variety of special May evening programs at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center 	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium on US Hwy 36 west of Estes Park	7:00 pm	45 minute program	Saturday, May 9 Friday, May 15 Saturday, May 23 only

West Side Ranger-led Programs	Location	Time	Length	Frequency
Skins and Things Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. 	Kawuneeche Visitor Center on US Hwy 34 north of Grand Lake	3:00 pm	40 minute talk	Saturday May 23 Friday May 29 Saturday May 30 Sunday May 31 Friday June 5 Saturday June 6 only
Wilderness Connections Celebrate wilderness with a moderate 2-mile hike to a hidden meadow and picturesque creek.	Meet at Onahu Trailhead north of the Grand Lake Entrance	9:30 am	1.5-2 hour hike	Saturday May 23 May 30 June 6 only
Saturday Night in the Park Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center. 	Kawuneeche Visitor Center on US Hwy 34 north of Grand Lake	7:00 pm	1 hour program	Saturday May 23 Saturday May 30 only





Rocky Mountain National Park

100th Anniversary Celebration

100 Years of Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder



Many things happened in 1915.

World War I was in full swing. The House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote. The Kiwanis Club was founded. Pluto was photographed for the first time. The Lusitania was sunk, and Billie Holiday and Frank Sinatra were born. The first transcontinental phone call was made. Ford manufactured its one-millionth Model T, and Albert Einstein formulated the theory of relativity.

On January 26th, Rocky Mountain National Park was established.

A lot of history has passed between 1915 and today. A lot of things have changed – music, science, manufacturing, technology, politics. But some things haven’t.

Rocky Mountain National Park is still here. After almost 100 years, despite all the history, all the change, and all the progress, Rocky Mountain National Park is still important to people. Our need for mountains and wild places, beauty and escape is just as strong today as it was 100 years ago, if not more so.

Some visitors seek out the high country on a regular basis, using it as a portal through which to filter the world. Some have a memory of a snow-covered peak or a day on the trail to think back on fondly. Others will never set foot inside Rocky Mountain National Park's boundaries, and yet find great joy in simply knowing that it exists.

The celebration of Rocky Mountain National Park's 100th Anniversary is for everyone. It is a reminder of all that has happened here. It is a celebration of the connections that people have made with this place, the things that live here, and those who work diligently to protect it. This celebration is a challenge to us to refresh the values that Rocky Mountain National Park embodies as we progress into the next 100 years. It is a renewal of the vow that was made to protect this place, so that it can continue to shelter us and those who come after us.

You will do many things in 2015.

Let the 100th Anniversary of Rocky Mountain National Park be one that you remember.

We invite you to join us for the celebration. Read on to find out about the many ways you can get involved!



Gold never really panned out for the miners at LuLu City.



The Grand Ditch cuts across the Never Summer Mountains and can be seen from Farview Curve.



In 1910, Sprague's Lodge was built in the Glacier Basin Area. By the 30s, rates were \$17.50-\$40/night.

www.nps.gov/romo
for detailed
information on events

Timeline of Events

10,000 BC Clovis Paleoindian hunters enter the park as the glaciers retreat.

1200-1300 Ute enter North Park and Middle Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

1800 Arapaho make first appearance in the park.

1820 Stephen A. Long Expedition on the plains and are first non-Indians to see Longs Peak.

1843 Rufus B. Sage is first explorer to enter east side of the park and write about it.

1858 Joel Estes enters what is now Estes Park and starts a ranch.

1868 John Wesley Powell, William Byers (Rocky Mountain News), and others make the first ascent of Longs Peak.

1871 Addie Alexander is the first woman to climb Longs Peak

1874 Hayden's "U.S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories" enters the park.

1874 Abner Sprague homesteads in Moraine Park, builds Sprague's Ranch, and establishes tourism and dude ranching in the park.

1876 State of Colorado created by Congress

1874-1886 Mining occurs on the west side of the mountains; Lulu City and Gaskill Towns established.

1895-1935 Grand Ditch is built to bring water from Never Summer Range across La Poudre Pass and down the Cache Le Poudre to the plains for agriculture.

1896-1902 Mining on the east side of the park (Eugenia and Meeker Mines).

1905 Stanley Hotel constructed in Estes Park.

1906 Antiquities Act passed; allows the President to create national monuments.

What's Your Story?

When did you fall in love with Rocky Mountain National Park? <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/centennial-social-media.htm> How has the park left its mark on your family? What pictures tell your park story?

Now there is a way to share your stories, memories, and photos of your time in Rocky Mountain National Park and be part of the Rocky Mountain National Park Centennial Celebration!

Visit rmnp100.com to contribute to the Centennial Family Photo Album. Click on the decade of your choosing and upload a photo or write down your story (or both!). Your memories will become part of our virtual time capsule that will be kept to help document the connections that people have made with the park over the past 100 years.

Spread the word to friends and family who might want to participate, enter your memory, and then check back to see how the album grows.

Be part of the legacy of Rocky Mountain National Park!



Centennial Junior Ranger

You are the future of Rocky Mountain National Park!

Junior Rangers of all ages are invited to pick up a Centennial Junior Ranger Activity Sheet to test your knowledge and creativity. Turn in your completed page for a special Centennial Sticker.

Activity sheets and stickers are available only at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, Fall River Visitor Center, Alpine Visitor Center and Kawuneeche Visitor Center.



The Civilian Conservation Corps created many of the roads and trails still used in the park today.



Trail Ridge Road was constructed carefully so as to not damage the fragile alpine tundra.



Over 3000 people from all over Colorado attended the park's dedication on September 4, 1915.

www.nps.gov/romo for detailed information on events

Timeline of Events continued

- 1906** Road up the Big Thompson River (Hwy 34) completed.
- 1907** Squeaky Bob Wheeler opens the Hotel de Hardscrabble for tourists in the Kawuneeche Valley.
- 1907** Enos Mills, James Grafton Rodgers, and others begin lobbying for the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park.
- 1914** Arapaho pack trip provides 30 Indian names for mountains and other topographic features in the park.
- January 26, 1915** Congress signs legislation creating Rocky Mountain National Park
- September 4, 1915** Rocky Mountain National Park is publically dedicated in Horseshoe Park
- 1913-1920** Fall River Road is constructed as the first road over the Continental Divide between Estes Park and Grand Lake.
- 1933-1942** Trail Ridge Road constructed.
- 1936** Hidden Valley becomes a ski area; closed in 1992 and removed by 2002.
- 1936** CCC crews remodel Moraine Park Lodge into the Moraine Park Museum and build the nearby amphitheater that ushered in a new era of park interpretation and education programs.
- 1937-1947** Colorado-Big Thompson Project and Alva B. Adams tunnel completed under the park.
- 1939** Abner Sprague becomes the first park visitor to pay an entrance fee.
- 1955** National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth announces Mission 66, a construction program designed to bring the national parks into modern conditions for increasing amount of visitors.
- 1960** New bridge over the Big Thompson River is completed and the present Beaver Meadows Entrance is opened as part of Mission 66.

Rocky Mountain National Park's Centennial Year by James H. Pickering, Historian Laureate, Town of Estes Park

Centennials are important events. The 100th anniversary of the dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park is certainly no exception. That event took place on September 4, 1915, on an open knoll in Horseshoe Park close by today’s Lawn Lake trailhead, a two-sided banner overhead. Though the day was overcast, the crowd was large. Individuals and families came from Denver and other Front Range towns as well as from Estes Park. Enos Mills, already celebrated as “The Father of Rocky Mountain National Park,” served as master of ceremonies. “This is the proudest moment of my life,” he told the crowd. “I have lived to see the realization of a great dream come true. It means great things for Colorado and for the nation.” And indeed it most certainly has. Though the anniversary of that dedication Saturday is still a year away, a series of events are being planned that will give all of us ample opportunity both to celebrate and reflect.

Looking back one thinks of the park’s milestone events and achievements. There have been many. One thinks of the completion of Fall River Road over the Continental Divide in 1920, and

its successor, Trail Ridge Road in 1932; of the Civilian Conservation Corps days of the 1930s which advanced important park projects, including trail building, by well more than a decade; and of the “holing through” of the 13-mile Alva Adams tunnel beneath the park in 1944, a key element in the Colorado-Big Thompson trans-mountain irrigation project. Other, more recent, accomplishments include the opening of the Beaver Meadows Visitors Center in 1967, a cornerstone of Mission ’66 project, the last concerted attempt to refurbish and update America’s system of national parks; and the completion in 2013 of the reconstruction and relocation of portions of much-traveled Bear Lake Road.

Centennial years, rightly considered, should not simply focus on the past. They should draw our attention to the present and to the future as well. Over the past hundred years Rocky Mountain National Park has grown slightly in size and greatly in complexity. To be sure, it is rather less cluttered than it was in 1915. All of the great resort hotels (those “castles of woods”) are gone, as are many of the other

inholdings once found in places like Moraine and Horseshoe Parks. The size of the ranger force and support staff of necessity has also grown (at the time of the dedication there were only three). They are needed to take care of the more than three million visitors who enter the park each year. Balancing this accessibility with the need to protect and preserve the park’s fragile ecology is, and will remain, a major challenge. Enos Mills’ dream of 1915 is, in fact, an still unfinished one— it is an affirmation in progress, as all truly great dreams are.

So even as we enjoy the centennial events of the coming months let us do so with gratitude not only to those who made Rocky Mountain National Park possible but to those who labor today and will labor tomorrow to keep Enos Mills’ dream alive. The late Western writer Wallace Stegner called national parks “the best idea we ever had.” Those of us who have had the privilege of hiking the trails of Rocky Mountain National Park, lunching besides one of its supremely beautiful lakes, or fishing one of its peaceful and sequestered streams, will surely agree. Our ability to enjoy the authenticity of

such experiences, not to mention the wonder of it all, is the gift of the past to the present.

Let then this celebratory centennial year also be a year of re-dedication. Let it be a year in which we reaffirm our own responsibility as present-day stewards in helping to preserve this special place, so that a hundred years hence it will be said that we in our time—to quote the Organic Act of 1916 that created the National Park Service—helped “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects . . . by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Put in less lofty terms: that we too helped pass Enos Mills’ “great dream” forward into the hands of those whom we will never know.



Timeline of Events continued

- 1964** The Wilderness Act is passed which later allows for further protection of the park
- 1966** National Historic Preservation Act is created to protect historic and prehistoric resources on federal lands.
- 1968** Beaver Meadows Headquarters building is finished.
- 1982** The Lawn Lake dam collapses resulting in a flood that kills 3 people and severely impacts Estes Park.
- 1988 McGraw Ranch is purchased and the buildings are remodeled and turned into a research center in 2001.
- 1992** Lily Lake area is purchased and the popular accessible trail is constructed.
- 2000** Fall River Visitor Center opens. A congressional act was required to allow a private company to build a visitor center outside the park with NPS staff.
- 2002 Beaver Meadows Headquarters is declared a National Historic Landmark as the only building in the NPS designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright school of architecture.
- 2003 Grand Ditch breach occurs.
- 2004 Hidden Valley reopens for winter sledding and summer picnics.
- 2007** Sister Park Agreement signed with Tatra National Parks.
- 2008** The Final Elk and Vegetation Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is signed.
- 2009** The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 is passed providing additional protection for over 95% of the backcountry of the park by designating it as official Wilderness.
- 2011 Sister Park Agreement signed with Tusheti National Park in the Republic of Georgia.
- 2013 Record flooding severely impacts Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding communities.

Song of Enos
by Will LaPage
Artist-in-Residence 2008

It's more than music that's alive in these hills.
Listen closely wherever you go,
and you're sure to catch the spirit of a man named Mills.
Enos was a man for whom beauty must be shared.
Enos was a man for whom wild things must be cared.
Enos had a heart and Enos had a vision.
Enos built a park to heal the raw divisions,
to share the forest and share the streams.

Up where democracy springs to life
from elegantly simple dreams,
there's a land of inspiration, a land of bold creation,
a forever treasure for the world,
a forever measure for our nation.
High up where the glaciers melt and icy streams arise,
up where flinty peaks stab at emerald skies -
that's where Enos' spirit roams,
that's where Enos' spirit cries:
Let the Rockies fuel your soul as the Rockies fill your eyes!



Traditional geocaching is not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park. Please practice Leave No Trace ethics and do not take items from or leave caches in the national park.

Across the Divide GeoTour

Do you love a treasure hunt? Are you looking for a new, fun way to discover the Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder of Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding area? Then this activity is for you!

What is a geocaching? Geocaching is a free world-wide, high-tech treasure hunt that starts with the internet and then gets people outside to hunt and explore for "caches" - usually a container and a logbook for others to find and write in. There are many of these traditional caches in Grand Lake and Estes Park that lead you to examples of the wilderness, wildlife, wonder, and history of the area. In order to follow Leave No Trace principles, traditional caches are not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park. Instead, virtual and Earthcaches bring you to meaningful locations, spots with a great view, or spots with geological significance in the park. These caches have a question you must answer in order to "log" your visit.

What is a Geo-Tour? This Geo-Tour is a series of geocaches that takes you around Estes Park, over the Continental Divide through RMNP (when Trail Ridge Road is open), and around Grand Lake. Do part of the tour or the whole thing! Commemorative collectible coins are awarded for various levels of completion.

What do I need to participate? You'll need:

- A GPS unit or a smartphone with a downloadable geocaching app (such as c:geo)
- The GeoTour Passport, **available only at the Estes Park and Grand Lake Visitor Centers** (this passport is not available at RMNP visitor centers)
- a free online account with Geocaching.com

Need more information? Visit the Estes Park or Grand Lake Visitor Centers for more information on this fun way to celebrate our Centennial and we'll see you Across the Divide!

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy

The nonprofit Rocky Mountain Conservancy (formerly the Rocky Mountain Nature Association) was founded in 1931 to develop informational brochures for the park. Today, through the publication and sale of educational materials, the Conservancy supports the research and educational programs of Rocky Mountain

National Park and its public lands partners. The Rocky Mountain Conservancy also raises funds for trails and improvement projects within Rocky Mountain National Park.

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy Field Institute will be offering a special Centennial Seminar Series throughout 2014 and 2015 in order to highlight the

wilderness, wildlife, and wonder of the park. Seminars are led by talented instructors and usually require some hiking, and cover a myriad of topics including wildlife biology, history, botany, and photography.

Stop by a bookstore in one of the park visitor centers to shop, pick up a seminar catalog, or learn more about becoming a

member and helping to support Rocky Mountain National Park.



Visit rmconservancy.org for more information.

Celebrate Rocky on Social Media

Join in on the celebration conversation by finding us on your favorite social media platform. Gain access to special events, photos, videos, and more!

@Rockynps



Subscribe to our YouTube channel for exclusive videos about the park, and participate in our Centennial RMNP YouTube Project. For this project, we want you to capture the moments when you were truly in awe of Rocky Mountain National Park. YOU are a part of what makes

this place so special and we want you to be the focus of these videos. Record yourself, friends, and family enjoying the park. This project is focused on the people and their emotions that are inspired by this beautiful place. Look for the finished video late summer 2015!



Join us on Instagram and help us reach our goal of 100K photos for 100 years of Rocky by posting your photos and using #RMNP. Throughout the year RMNP will be hosting seasonal InstaMeets to help reach our goal.



Like us on Facebook for a daily glimpse into the world of Rocky Mountain National Park. See beautiful photos and video, and join in a discussion about what Rocky means to you.

Minute of Wonder Weekly Video Series: Every Monday morning during the celebration year a one-minute "Minute of Wonder" video will remind you of why we are celebrating the Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder of Rocky Mountain National Park. and share it with us.

100 Days Outside Challenge: Even if you can't celebrate our Centennial with us here in the park all year long, celebrate with us from home by joining this Facebook event and sharing the beauty of nature where you live (#100DaysOutside).



Follow us on Twitter for up-to-date information about trail conditions, avalanche reports, road status, and weather.

Visit www.nps.gov/romo for more information on how to get involved digitally with RMNP!



Rocky Mountain National Park

Spring Centennial Calendar of Events

For complete event details, please visit www.nps.gov/romo

March 2015

- 24 Centennial Speaker Series: John Fielder**
Denver Museum of Nature and Science - \$15
Denver, CO
- 28 Centennial Saturday Night**
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
- 30 Pioneers of the Peaks - Harry Kent**
Local Climbers Who Made History
Estes Park Museum
Estes Park, CO

April 2015

- 25 Earth Day/
National Junior Ranger Day**
Beaver Meadows Visitor, RMNP
- 27 Pioneers of the Peaks - Keith Lober**
Local Climbers Who Made History
Estes Park Museum
Estes Park, CO

May 2015

- 1 Wild Inspirations**
Aspen and Evergreen Gallery
Estes Park, CO
- 18 Pioneers of the Peaks**
Local Climbers Who Made History
Estes Park Museum
Estes Park, CO
- 19 Enos Mills and the Campaign for
Rocky Mountain National Park**
History Colorado
Denver, CO
- 29-31 Estes Park Western Heritage Art and
Artisan Show and Sale**
Estes Park, CO
- 30 Centennial Speaker Series: Jill Baron**
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
- 30-31 Rocky Mountain Checkwagon Cookoff**
Estes Park, CO

June 2015

- 5 Wild Inspirations**
Aspen and Evergreen Gallery
Estes Park, CO
- 6 Technology of Your Ancestors**
Rocky Mountain Conservancy Seminar
\$70, 970-586-3262 for information
- 6 Rocky Mountain Molecules: Chemical
Storylines of Wonder**
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
- 6 Celebrating Rocky Invitational Art Show
Opening Reception**
Cultural Arts Council,
Estes Park, CO
- 6-14 Estes Institute RMNP Student
Art Celebration**
Fall River Visitor Center, RMNP
- 12 RMNP Centennial Celebration Concert**
Oratorio Society of Estes Park
Estes Park, CO
- 12-14 FACE of Fiber in the Rockies 2015**
Fiber Arts Show
Estes Park, CO
- 12-14 Rocky Mountain High Golf**
Grand Lake Golf Course
Grand Lake, CO
- 13 RMNP Centennial Celebration Concert**
Oratorio Society of Estes Park
Estes Park, CO
- 13 Rocky Mountain Molecules: Chemical
Storylines of Wonder**
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, RMNP
- 13-14 The Wonder of Local Crafts**
Grand Lake, CO

For complete details, please visit www.nps.gov/romo

Long Term Events

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
YMCA of the Rockies Centennial Hikes
www.y-hikes.com/index.html for details

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
**Grand Lake and Estes Park
100th Anniversary Activities**
grandlakechamber.com/100th
www.visitestespark.com/rocky-mountain-national-park/centennial/

September 4, 2014 - September 4, 2015
**Colorado Mountain Club Hikes, Climbs,
and Snowshoes in RMNP**
www.cmc.org for more details

September 26, 2014 - October 4, 2015
Climb On! - an Exhibit
Estes Park Museum
Estes Park, CO

January 24 - May 2
Harold Dunning's World View
Loveland Museum
Loveland, CO

March 21 - September 4, 2015
We Love RMNP Exhibit
History Colorado
Denver, CO

May 23 - September 4, 2015
Centennial Exhibit
Kauffman House Museum
Grand Lake, CO

June 1 - October 31, 2015
Celebration of RMNP
Hot Sulphur Creative Arts Council
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO

June 6 - July 23, 2015
**Celebrating Rocky Invitational
Art Show**
Cultural Arts Council
Estes Park, CO

Camping 2015

Campground	Reservable for Summer?	Firewood & Ice	Max RV Trailer Length	Summer Dump Station	Designated Accessible Sites	Tent Pad Size	Summer Flush Toilets	Location and Brief Description
Aspenglen Elevation 8,220 feet 52 sites May 21-Sep 27	Yes, may fill by reservation	Yes	30 ft	No, use Glacier Basin, Moraine Park or Timber Creek	Yes	13 ft x 15 ft	Yes. B Loop will have no comfort stations 5/21-7/31/15	In a pine forest by rushing Fall River just inside the Fall River Entrance on US Hwy 34 west of Estes Park.
Glacier Basin Elevation 8,500 feet 150 sites A & B Loops open May 21-Sep 7 C & D Loops open May 21-Sep 2, then closed to camping Sep 3-4; reopen 1st-come, 1st served Sept 5-7	Yes, the A, B, D, and Group Loops may fill by reservation. C Loop is first-come, first-served all season	Yes	35 ft	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes	Along Bear Lake Road, it is across from the Park & Ride; see page 8 for summer shuttle bus schedule Hazard trees were removed so there is no shade in the C, D, & Group Loops, but there are good views & night sky, and it's good for slideouts.
Longs Peak Elevation 9,405 feet 26 sites May 22-Nov 1	No, all sites are always first-come, first-served	Firewood only in summer only	Tents only	No	No	13 ft x 15 ft	No, vault toilets only	In a pine forest 9 miles south of Estes Park off of Highway 7. The trailhead to Longs Peak and other destinations is a short walk away.
Moraine Park Elevation 8,160 feet 77 sites winter 244 sites summer Open Year-round Reservable for May 21-Sep 27	First-come, first-served thru 5/20. Can be full by reservation in summer	Yes, in summer only	Limited number of sites up to 40 ft	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes except B Loop always has vault toilets	In a pine forest above the meadows of Moraine Park, this campground is a short drive from the Beaver Meadows Entrance on Bear Lake Road; see page 8 for summer shuttle bus schedule.
Timber Creek Elevation 8,900 feet 98 sites May 22-Nov 1	No, all sites are always first-come, first-served	Firewood only	30 ft	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes	The only campground on the park's west side, it is near the Colorado River 10 miles north of Grand Lake on US Hwy 34.

Camping Information

Overnight stays in Rocky Mountain National Park must be in a campground (or a backcountry site); staying overnight in a car or RV along a road or at a trailhead is not allowed.

It is common for all park campgrounds to fill up on most summer days and fall weekends.

Reservations for late-May through September can be made six months to one day in advance and are highly recommended. Make a reservation online at www.reserveamerica.com or www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

Fees to Camp

- When the water is off (winter), Moraine Park Loop B campground is \$14/site/night.
- When the water is on (summer), all campgrounds are \$20.00/site/night.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50% discount on camping fees.
- Park entrance fees and camping fees may be paid in US currency by major credit or debit card, cash, or check.

Stay Limits

The maximum length of stay is seven nights total between June 1 and September 30, plus an additional 14 nights between October 1 and May 31. Stay limits are on a parkwide basis rather than on a per campground basis.

At All Standard Campsites

- Eight people or less may camp at a given site.
- All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.
- Shared food storage lockers are available throughout all campgrounds.
- Tents must fit on the tent pad; two or three tents are allowed, as long as they fit on the pad.
- There are no electric, water or sewer hookups at any park campsites.
- There are no shower facilities in the park, but showers are available in nearby communities.
- Portable showers are prohibited except in the two solar-heated shower bag stall facilities at Moraine Park Campground.

- Remember, toiletries attract wildlife and need to be properly stored when not in use.

Pets

All campgrounds allow pets with certain restrictions: they must be on a leash no longer than six feet; pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles; pets may not make noise that impacts visitors or wildlife. Pets are never allowed on any park trails or in meadow areas. Pets should never be left unattended. Keep a clean camp! Never leave pet food unsecured or unattended.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. “Food items” include **food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc.**, must be disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles. Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are attractants for wildlife such as

raccoons, elk, deer, and bears, and are not allowed in campgrounds. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed and stored in the same manner as food. Camp kitchens must be kept clean and individual items properly stored.

In campgrounds, store all food items in food storage lockers; if full, store food items by one of the following methods:

- Inside vehicle trunks with windows closed and doors locked.
- In vehicles without trunks, items should be placed as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors locked.
- Visitors with convertibles or motorcycles are encouraged to use food storage lockers, available in all park campgrounds. Food storage lockers, which are approximately 3 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft are shared with other visitors and cannot be locked. Food storage locker symbols are located on all campground maps.

Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping, and reservations are recommended for summer. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. Backcountry permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

An administrative permit fee of \$26 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31. The nonrefundable, non-exchangeable fee must be paid when reservations are made. There is no backcountry permit fee in winter.

For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, backcountry campers are required to use carry in/carry out, commercially-manufactured, hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage containers in all areas of the park between May 1 and October 31. Containers may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in nearby communities.

For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517, or call (970) 586-1242.

Leave No Trace

Rocky Mountain National Park attracts over three million visitors a year. Whether you are hiking, camping, or driving Trail Ridge Road, keep your park beautiful by practicing Leave No Trace Ethics.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite



Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$26 from May 1 to October 31.



Lanceleaf springbeauty NPS/Debbie Biddle

Early Season Hiking Trails

Family-Friendly Trails












Early-season trails may melt out earlier than other trails. **Check with a ranger about current conditions.**

Mountain weather in spring can be extremely varied, and days can be warm and sunny or cold and snowy. March and April are typically the snowiest months of the year, and it's not uncommon for snow to fall in May and even early June. Spring snows are usually much wetter. The resulting spring trail conditions can be snowy, icy, and muddy. Conditions can change quickly, especially on warm days. Crusty snow or ice in the morning may soften as the day warms up, making trails muddy. Upper trails and trails in shady areas often hold snow longer.

Be prepared with good waterproof footwear and layers of clothing, sunglasses, and a hat and gloves. It's an in-between time, when the snow can be too wet and soft to snowshoe, but there is too much snow to hike without postholing.

Remember! Pets are prohibited on ALL Rocky Mountain National Park trails, tundra, and meadow areas.



Trail (Some Trails Family-Friendly )	Trailhead	Round-Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
West Side Trails				
Adams Falls	East Inlet Trailhead, located on the far east end of Grand Lake	0.6 mile	80 feet	A beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. The trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows.
Coyote Valley Trail  	Coyote Valley Trailhead on US Hwy 34, 6 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center	1 mile	10 feet	Follows the bank of the Colorado River with views of the Never Summer Mountains. Look for moose, songbirds, and wildflowers. Packed gravel, level grade.
Holzwarth Historic Site 	8 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center on US Hwy 34	0.5 mile	10 feet	Explore a 1920s dude ranch. In off-season, buildings are closed but you can walk around outside.
East Shore Trail	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake, just south of Grand Lake	5.2 miles	100 feet	2.6 miles to Green Ridge Campground; a side loop trail to Ranger Meadows reconnects with the main trail, adding 1.4 miles.
Cascade Falls	North Inlet Trailhead off Tunnel Road in Grand Lake	6.8 miles	300 feet	A relatively level hike to a rocky cascade.
East Side Trails				
Sprague Lake  	On Bear Lake Road	0.5 mile loop	10 feet	This packed gravel, level grade trail circles lovely Sprague Lake.
Bear Lake  	At the end of Bear Lake Road	0.5 miles	20 feet	Follow the self-guiding nature trail as it encircles beautiful Bear Lake. The first portion of the trail in either direction is accessible. Packed gravel trail.
Lily Lake  	South of Estes Park on Highway 7	0.8 mile loop	20 feet	Wildflowers, waterfowl, and mountain views may be seen on this level walk around pretty Lily Lake. Caution: the trail was flood-damaged along the south shore.
Tundra Communities Trail 	At Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road (open May 22, weather permitting)	0.5 mile	260 feet	View the miniature world of the alpine tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park.
Moraine Park Discovery Center Nature Trail	On Bear Lake Road	0.8 mile	20 feet	A self-guiding trail booklet is available for this packed-gravel trail. It winds up and down the hillside behind the Discovery Center and has beautiful views.
Gem Lake	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead on Devils Gulch Road north of Estes Park	3.2 miles	1,000 feet	Big rocks and nice views on this rather steep hike. The lake is small and spring-fed (no stream). Usually one of the first trails to melt out in spring.
The Pool	Fern Lake Trailhead off of Bear Lake Road	3.4 miles	245 feet	A pretty, shaded hike in a deep valley along a rushing stream.
Deer Mountain	Deer Mountain Trailhead at Deer Ridge Junction where US Hwy 34 and US Hwy 36 from Estes Park meet	6 miles	1,083 feet	One of the few mountains in RMNP with a trail to the summit, this trail melts out earlier than many others. Great views of mountains and valleys.

A Summer Trip? Planning is Essential

It's Busy in Summer

Summer is a glorious time of year in Rocky, and most people visit here in summer and on fall weekends. These are the park's busiest times. Expect congestion on roads, in parking areas, and along popular trails.

Best tip to help: plan ahead.

- Make reservations for camping in the park and lodging in the local areas.
- Tour and hike early and late in the day; by mid-morning, parking areas are often full.
- Carpool and/or use the free summer park shuttle buses. The shuttle schedule is on the back page.

Summer Hiking

Planning a summer hike? Rocky has over 350 miles of trails to take you to spectacular scenery, soaring mountains, rushing streams and powerful waterfalls, shimmering lakes, and the amazing alpine tundra, where 200 year-old plants can be the size of a quarter.

Many repairs have already been done, but be aware that some park trails and bridges may still be damaged from the 2013 flood.

Know before you go: be prepared and informed, including checking weather and trail conditions. Many resources are readily available, including

- RMNP Trail Conditions Reports at www.nps.gov and follow the "Road, Trail & Longs Peak Conditions and Closures" link
- National Weather Service forecasts at www.weather.gov and put in a location like Estes Park, CO; Grand Lake, CO; Alpine Visitor Center, CO (elevation 11,864 ft).

- Colorado SNOTEL Sites. There are five in the park: Bear Lake, Copeland Lake, Wild Basin (near Ouzel Falls), Willow Park, and Lake Irene. Visit www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/nwcc/rgprt?report=daily_snowdelta_7day&state=co
- Call the RMNP Information Office 8-4:30 daily for conditions, updates, and information, 970-586-1206.



Thinking of Climbing Longs Peak?

Training, technical skills and conditioning are needed to climb many of Rocky's high peaks. Mountaintops can experience wintry conditions any time of year.

In general, the most snow-free and ice-free time of year to climb Longs Peak is mid-July through mid-September. However, weather and conditions vary, so it's best to check with a ranger or online for current conditions. Longs Peak is NOT a hike! It is a climb that crosses enormous sheer vertical rock faces, often with falling rocks, requiring scrambling, where an unroped fall would likely be fatal. The route has narrow ledges, loose rock, and steep cliffs. The terrain requires good route-finding and scrambling skills. Use caution, as injuries requiring rescue are very dangerous and take many hours, if not days, to evacuate.

Don't have summit fever: Enjoy the experience but be willing to turn around at any time.

Information to Know

Rocky Mountain National Park

1000 US Hwy 36, Estes Park, CO 80517
16018 US Hwy 34, Grand Lake, CO 80447
970-586-1206
www.nps.gov/romo

Lost and Found

All lost and found in Rocky is handled by the Backcountry Office, located next door to the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, 970-586-1242.

If you find something, please stop at any open park visitor center to drop it off.

Contacts Outside Rocky

Neighbors

Estes Park Visitor Center
500 Big Thompson Ave, Estes Park, CO 80517
www.visitestespark.com
800-443-7837 970-577-9900

Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce
14700 US Hwy 34, Grand Lake, CO 80447
www.grandlakechamber.com
800-531-1019 970-627-3402

US Forest Service Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/arp

Boulder Ranger District
2140 Yarmouth Ave, Boulder, CO 80301
303-541-2500

Canyon Lakes Ranger District
2150 Centre Ave, Building E, Ft. Collins, CO 80526
970-295-6700

Sulphur Ranger District
9 Ten Mile Drive, Granby, CO 80446
970-887-4100

Camping Reservations

(note: US Forest Service campgrounds in the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest use this reservation service too)

National Park Camping Reservations
www.reserveamerica.com or www.recreation.gov
Reservations 877-444-6777
Customer Service 888-448-1474
From Outside the US 518-885-3639

Larimer County Camping
www.larimercamping.com
800-397-7795

Colorado Department of Transportation Road Conditions

www.cotrip.org 877-315-7623



Rotary plow at Alpine Visitor Center
NPS/Ann Schonlau



Snow poles along Trail Ridge Road
NPS/John Marino



Plowing Trail Ridge Road
NPS/John Marino

Why Isn't Trail Ridge Road Open?

By Katy Sykes, Information Office Manager

Winds howled across the mountaintops all winter long. Imagine what they left - towering piles of drifted snow interspersed with bare tundra. Through it all runs Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous paved highway in the U.S. At 12,183 feet, it's Rocky's seasonal connection between the towns of Estes Park and Grand Lake. Every spring Rocky hopes to open Trail Ridge Road by the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend, which this year is May 22. Spring opening is a difficult, lengthy process. Most years the opening day goal is met, but not always. Why? Blame weather and machines.

Plow operators begin clearing snow in mid-April. Crews from the park's east side and west side work up their sides of the road and eventually meet at the Alpine Visitor Center.

Mountain snow happens any time of year, but spring tends to bring the deepest, wettest snow. Often plowed areas get snowed in again, or strong winds blow and drift the road so it's covered again. This is part of the plow driver's annual routine.

Rocky uses large rotary plows to handle the deep snow. Often two plows work together. The first rotary pioneers, or clears, one lane; the second rotary widens so two lanes are cleared. When the snow is deeper than about 5 feet, the rotary works on the deep snow in layers. Plow drivers say the rotary "ramps," moving forward and plowing the top layer, backing up, then going back in to plow the rest down to the pavement.

So you're driving a rotary plow through a vast tundra landscape of deep, drifted, untrammelled snow. How do you know where the road is? Your only guide is a row of poles. These snow poles (bare logs) are placed and maintained along the outside edges of Trail Ridge Road to guide plows.

The snow is not always soft and undisturbed. Wind scours and drifts the snow into crusty, uneven piles. Rocks and sticks imbedded in the snow can cause problems. Rockslides routinely happen. Roadside signs are usually buried in drifts.

Not only the road must be cleared, but buildings including the Alpine Visitor Center and various restrooms are shoveled out, mostly by hand.

Last year Trail Ridge Road opened on May 23. The earliest the road has opened was on May 7, 2002; the latest June 26, 1943. Trail Ridge Road officially closed for the season last year on November 4, which was later than the average date of October 23.

Once Trail Ridge Road opens, it usually closes temporarily for mountaintop snowstorms, even into early June. Heavy melting on the road during the day and freezing temperatures at night may cause hazardous driving conditions. Because weather conditions may change rapidly, park visitors should be prepared to adjust travel plans accordingly and are encouraged to call the park's **Trail Ridge Road recorded status line at (970) 586-1222**. Park staff update the recorded line during and after regular office hours when the road status changes.

Toward a Greener Park

Greening Your Ride at Rocky



Join Rocky Mountain National Park in our efforts to cut emissions and save fuel.

You can help our climate and air quality in Rocky by reducing vehicle idling. Remember to turn off your engine while parked, waiting at wildlife crossings, or stopping to take photos.

Take the **FREE Shuttle!** See page 12 for schedule

Greening Your Park



Recycling Available in Major Park Locations

Glass, plastic #1 through #7 and aluminum may be recycled in park campgrounds and at major park locations. Look for our distinctive recycling containers or ask at any visitor center or campground for their locations.

Help us reduce the use of plastic water bottles!
There is limited potable drinking water in the park. Please remember to bring your own reusable water containers and refill them at park visitor centers.



Ride the Free Shuttle Bus

Using Rocky Mountain National Park's free shuttle bus service enables you to access many destinations and loop hikes along the

Bear Lake corridor, while enjoying the beautiful scenery without the distraction and hassle of traffic congestion and limited parking.

Bear Lake Shuttle

Weekends: May 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
June 6 & 7

Daily Service: June 13 - October 12

Buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Bear Lake, leaving Park & Ride every 10-15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Bear Lake Route is based at the Park & Ride shuttle bus parking area across from the Glacier Basin Campground.

Moraine Park Shuttle

Weekends: May 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
June 6 & 7

Daily Service: June 13 - October 12

Buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Fern Lake Bus Stop, leaving Park & Ride every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Moraine Park Route is based at the Park & Ride shuttle bus parking area across from the Glacier Basin Campground.

Hiker Shuttle

Daily Service: June 27 - September 13
Weekends Saturdays and Sundays
September 19 - October 11

Buses operate between the Estes Park Visitor Center and the RMNP Park & Ride. The only stop on this express route is Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

The first bus leaves the Estes Park Visitor Center at 7:30 a.m., and the last bus leaves for Estes Park at 8 p.m.

Buses run on an hourly schedule early and late in the day, and a half-hour schedule from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A park pass is required to board the Hiker Shuttle. It may be purchased at the Park & Ride.



RMNP shuttle bus on Bear Lake Road
NPS/Ann Schonlau

